2007-2008

Annual Report
April 1, 2007 to March 31, 2008

centreculturel
franco-manitobain

Le
Centre
culturel
franco-manitobain

centre culturel franco-manitobain
340 boulevard Provencher
Saint-Boniface MB R2H 0G7
Téléphone : 233-8972 Télécopieur : 233-3324

Honourable Eric Robinson
Minister of Culture, Heritage, Tourism and Sport

Dear Minister :

Pursuant to le Centre culturel franco-manitobain act (1972) Chapter 45, paragraph 9(1), I have the honour of submitting to you the Annual Report for the fiscal year ended March 31, 2008.

In addition to the financial statements of le Centre culturel franco-manitobain, as audited by the Office of the Auditor General for the period commencing April 01, 2007 and ended March 31, 2008, enclosed you will find a summary of the activities of le Centre culturel franco-manitobain.

Respectfully yours,

Guy Lévesque
President

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Message from the President and the Execcutive Director

A breath of fresh air for Francophone culture!

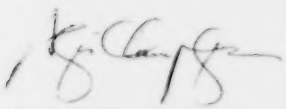
A major milestone of 2007-2008 was the completion of the reconstruction work and asbestos removal initiated in 2005. The welcoming and pristine environment is a long-awaited breath of fresh air for Manitoba's Francophone culture, after several years of demolition, reconstruction and a series of moves. The final step will be to renovate the art gallery.

A heartfelt thank you goes out to the CCFM professionals who ensured that the work did not affect the quality of our programming. On the contrary, the latter expanded and even incorporated some new elements, such as the first Fête de la Musique, celebrated in St. Boniface on June 21, and the launch of a new series of three children's shows. Lastly, Manitoba's Francophone improv league, the Ligue d'improvisation du Manitoba (LIM), welcomed two players from the Ligue nationale d'improvisation (LNI). It appears that our passion for culture and innovation is thriving, despite all the obstacles!

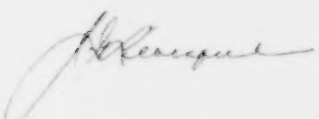
There was also something new in store for the groups sharing our space in 2007-2008. After much discussion, it was agreed that the Ensemble folklorique de la Rivière-Rouge would gradually be taken over by the CCFM. The definitive merger of the two organizations is scheduled for the summer of 2008. The CCFM has continued to work actively on the project for the new Cercle Molière theatre facility, and construction is slated to begin in the fall of 2008.

We are pleased to report that we were able to achieve a perfectly balanced administration and operating budget for 2007-2008. In addition, the CCFM policies and procedures manual underwent a full review.

Lastly, the adoption of a new four-year strategic plan, based on the relationship of closeness and trust that binds the Francophone community to its cultural centre, will guide us for the exciting years to come within an entirely new framework.



Agnès Champagne
Executive Director



Guy Lévesque
President

Mandate and Vision

MANDATE

The Centre culturel franco-manitobain (CCFM), legally incorporated in 1972, is a crown corporation of the province of Manitoba. Its mandate, as stated in Le Centre Culturel Franco-Manitobain Act of July 11, 1972, is to "maintain, encourage, foster, and sponsor by all means available all types of cultural activities, in the French language, and to make available Franco-Canadian culture to all residents of the province".

VISION

The Centre culturel franco-manitobain is a welcoming, active, attractive and open place that, through its activities and appearance, reflects its key role as a cultural centre and a hub of artistic and cultural life in French in Manitoba.

Activity Report

2007-2008 HIGHLIGHTS

The high points for 2007-2008 were unquestionably the completion of the renovation work at the CCFM, the first celebration of the Fête de la Musique and the launch of the cultural gazette Le Bav'ART.

First Fête de la Musique in Winnipeg

In 2007, the CCFM celebrated its very first Fête de la Musique (World Music Day), a renowned international event that has music lovers in over 100 countries dancing in the streets every June 21. Created in France in 1982, this festival provides an opportunity for audiences to discover new musical styles and to celebrate artistic diversity through free performances. The CCFM and its partners the Alliance française du Manitoba, the Festival du Voyageur and the Société Radio-Canada were the enthusiastic organizers of the Manitoba capital's first Fête de la Musique. Winnipeg and New York became the 341th and 342th cities to celebrate the event in 2007. Two groups put on a very special performance for the occasion: Montreal's No Name Jazz Sextet and Manitoba's Billy Joe Green and his band.

A brand-new, healthy building

The second phase of the CCFM reconstruction project involving the total removal of the asbestos in the building's ceilings and walls was completed in March 2008. Started in 2005, the work done this year meant relocating the CCFM administrative offices and those of other resident groups (sometimes off-site), the temporary closing of the art gallery and sporadic elevator access.

Restoration activities included fully renovating the second-floor washrooms, retrofitting the lighting, refurbishing the ceilings, purchasing new furnaces, repainting, installing new carpeting and cleaning the basement.

Bav'ART: spreading the word!

The CCFM found an original way to promote its activities in 2007-2008 by launching Bav'ART, a special cultural insert included three times a year in the weekly La Liberté newspaper. With an urban and rural circulation in excess of 6,000 Bav'ART presents the highlights of the CCFM's quarterly programming and includes a handy, eye-catching calendar of cultural events.

New policies and procedures

Lastly, the CCFM conducted a complete review of its policies and procedures with the assistance of lawyers Rénald Rémillard and Julien Bédard.

CULTURAL EVENTS: NO CHALLENGE TOO GREAT

As hard as it is to believe, and despite two office moves due to the asbestos removal and general reconstruction work, CCFM's 2007-2008 programming activities actually increased by nearly 8% and participation also rose by close to 12%.

Undeterred by the various obstacles, 13,000 people came out to participate in 98 events organized during the year by the CCFM, whether it was performances, artistic gatherings or community activities.

This overall increase is a reflection of the great passion that drives CCFM professionals and underscores the vital importance of culture for the Francophone community and all of Manitoba. The growth also attests to the CCFM's success in reinventing and renewing itself in recent years, bringing fresh thinking to its approach to culture and cultural events. Having taken great pains to probe the cultural needs of the community, our programming was refocused and fine-tuned to address such needs in modern and innovative ways.

Performance artists were carefully selected to dazzle audiences, but also to surprise them, to introduce them to new art forms and to diversify their tastes. A total of over 700 artists appeared at the CCFM in 2007-2008.

THRILLING PERFORMANCES... THANKS TO SIMPLE PARTNERSHIPS

The 2007-2008 program included several series of performances, some of them in partnership with other organizations.

The agreements enabled the CCFM to present artists from places like France and Belgium. It is an original and cost-effective way to expose the community to emerging artists and trends as well as new, quality Francophone cultural products.

The Jeudi soir au Garage musical series

New this year, the Garage Café on Provencher Boulevard played host to five special musical evenings between May and September 2007. Produced by Daniel ROA, the Jeudi soir au Garage series was the highly successful group effort of the CCFM, Les 100 Nons, Envol 91 FM and the Garage Café. The first Thursday of every month, Daniel ROA invited an artist to share the stage with him for an hour-long performance. Guest performers were the delightful Ben Wah (May), the radiant Dominique Reynolds (June), the brilliant Raphaël Freynet (July), the tender Nadia Gaudet (August) and the passionate Ginette Roy (September).

Mauvais Sort at Le Rendez-vous de la francophonie

On March 15, at the CCFM, the Rendez-vous de la francophonie featured a show by the group Mauvais Sort, known for its blend of original musical arrangements and traditional lyrics. In a "folk'n'roll" style all their own, the musicians of Mauvais Sort shared their infectious passion for reinvented traditions in an explosion of sounds and rhythms that had everyone dancing in their seats.

In a Paris bistro with Kikou

In collaboration with the Alliance française du Manitoba, the CCFM presented a show by Kikou, a cross between Gavroche and Renaud who wows audiences with his interpretations of La Vie en rose, Nini peau d'chien and Le gamin d'Paris. Held in the Salle Antoine-Gaborieau on May 11 and 12, in a bistro ambiance complete with beret, baguette and good wine, Kikou even provided lyric booklets so that the audience could sing along and select the songs for his finale. An evening filled with emotion, laughter and powerful renditions!

One, two, three Coups de cœur...

West coast and Prairie artists, Acadian blues and Belgium song: the three shows of the Coup de cœur Francophone series presented by the CCFM took audiences around the country and across the Atlantic.

Get off the couch and sing!

In November, the group Chansons pour quatre divans, comprising four Francophone singer-songwriter-composers hailing from the four provinces of western Canada, launched the series Coup de cœur francophone, showcasing some twenty original compositions in a variety of musical styles from jazz to folk to rock. Raphaël Freynet, Daniel ROA, Saint-Pierre and Annick Granger gave audiences the opportunity to trade their couches for a truly energizing performance. The show was also presented in Somerset and Notre-Dame-de-Lourdes.

French blues with JP LeBlanc

Later in November, the Salle Antoine-Gaborieau presented JP LeBlanc, a young 22-year-old musician from Bathurst, New Brunswick, whose blues and guitar left a lasting impression on the collective memory of the St. Boniface audience. His recording Le Blues m'emporte, featuring blues compositions sung in French, has also earned him critical acclaim. LeBlanc gave a special school performance for students of the DSFM.

Saule: The simple pleasures of Belgian song

December brought a performance by the young Belgian musician Baptiste Lalieu (alias Saule), a singer songwriter whose minimalist style showcases the acoustic guitar. His music has been influenced by some of the great masters like Georges Brassens and Jacques Higelin, as well as more current artists like Tryo, Cali or Bénabar. His easygoing style, humour and storytelling talent charmed the audience. The show was opened by local artists Justin Lacroix and Ivan Burke.

Promotion of Coup de cœur

For the first time in 2007, the Coup de cœur francophone series included a promotional campaign. Bluesman JP LeBlanc, Alan Côté (of the Petite Vallée singers) and Daniel ROA (Chansons pour quatre divans) travelled to four Canadian cities to meet with the media, the public and local artists. They came through Winnipeg on September 20, and the CCFM arranged to hold a press conference the same day. Andrée Gendron, press agent for the Coup de cœur francophone promotional tour, also gave a free workshop on press relations for professionals involved in cultural event and product marketing.

Event of the Year 2007

The Coup de cœur received the Event of the Year award at the 2007 Gala de l'ADISQ (Association québécoise de l'industrie du disque, du spectacle et de la vidéo – Quebec recording, entertainment and video industry association). It is a wonderful tribute to all those who share endless kilometres of musical dreams.

Founded in Montreal in 1987, Coup de cœur francophone is a festival dedicated to the discovery and promotion of Francophone musical talent in Canada. Every November in Montreal and some thirty cities across the country, it presents new and established national and international artists whose production is based on discovery, daring and creation. The CCFM is one of eight partners on the Coup de cœur board.

Canadian Jazz Concerts: a tradition takes root

For the fifth consecutive year, the CCFM joined forces with Jazz Winnipeg to present a series of four Canadian jazz concerts. Under the artistic direction of Michelle Grégoire, established and emerging artists filled the Centre with modern jazz notes that amazed and enchanted.

David Occhipinti and his quartet

A concert by David Occhipinti and his jazz quartet kicked off the fall season. This prolific composer and accomplished guitarist has been nominated for a Juno and a National Jazz Award. He released his CD, Forty Revolutions, in the fall of 2007. With Kevin Turcotte on trumpet, Andrew Downing on bass and Terry Clarke on drums, the quartet treated the Salle Antoine-Gaborieau audience to an evening of stylish and contemporary jazz

Jodi Proznick, virtuoso bassist

In November, the series showcased Jodi Proznick,
a Vancouver bassist who has collaborated with internationally acclaimed groups and was the winner of the Galaxie Rising Star Award at the Vancouver Jazz Festival in 2004. Accompanied by Tilden Webb on piano, Jesse Cahill on drums and Steve Kaldestad on sax, Jodi Proznick's performance deeply touched everyone who came out to hear her at the Salle Pauline-Boutal.

The Darren Sigesmund Quintet in Winnipeg

The winter season reserved a warm welcome for the Darren Sigesmund Quintet, featuring the sophisticated and original work of trombonist/composer Darren Sigesmund. The Toronto ensemble, which also includes Quinsin Nachoff (saxophone), Reg Schwager (guitar), Jim Vivian (bass) and Anthony Michelli (drums), was in Winnipeg in February, after touring in Australia and Asia.

David Binney and the renowned Michael Herring's Vertigo

The series wrapped up in early spring with Michael Herring's Vertigo, featuring the exceptional New York saxophonist David Binney. While Herring is a jazz bassist and composer, he is equally at home performing in a variety of genres such as folk and reggae. His 2006 recording, Coniferous Revenge, was called one of the most exciting and interesting recordings of last year by the Toronto Star.

Jazz Labs

All of the artists were invited to lead a workshop on the afternoon before their performance. Sponsored by TD Canada Trust Jazz Labs, the workshops were designed to give young musicians an opportunity to meet and learn from the series' talented, innovative guest artists, who shared their valuable knowledge of composition, improvisation and the jazz industry with their sensitive and passionate young counterparts.

The magical atmosphere of Mârdi jazz

The CCFM's popular Mârdi jazz, a one-of-its-kind event in Winnipeg, continues to be a favourite for jazz musicians and fans alike. The cornerstone of CCFM programming for over 20 years, Mârdi jazz evenings engaged the eyes and ears of audiences in the soft, intimate atmosphere of the Salle Antoine-Gaborieau, the perfect setting for this type of presentation.

The CCFM line-up was on the money in 2007-2008, fulfilling the expectations of listeners who never tire of seeing the artists who regularly play at these legendary evenings, while introducing a new artist every month to expand and vary the program.

The Mârdi jazz shows blended a variety of jazz styles, musician experience level and audience types. Some 3,500 jazz fans came out to 47 concerts, or about 75 people a show. Roughly 250 musicians played to the delight of lovers of the blues, ragtime, the piano, trombone and saxophone.

We used a survey left on the tables starting November 1st to evaluate our programming.

A kaleidoscope of emotions with Gisèle Fredette

In collaboration with Espace Musique 89,9 FM, the Salle Pauline-Boutal presented a special evening featuring Gisèle Fredette, a multilingual singer who performs a mix of lyrical, jazz, cabaret and Latin style music. It was an emotional return to the stage where it had all begun for this Manitoba-born singer, who introduced us to her latest musical endeavours, accompanied by Michelle Grégoire and her quintet. The audience was treated to songs from her latest album, Parlons de toi, produced with the very talented Barry Little.

First ever Manitoba Arts and Culture Week

The CCFM, along with the Association culturelle franco-manitobaine (ACFM), actively collaborated with the Manitoba Arts Network to organize the first Francophone component of the Manitoba Arts and Culture Week, held March 7 to 15, 2008.

ENTERTAINING, SPONTANEOUS AND BRAIN-TEASING EVENTS

New LNI-LIM mentoring

A continued part of CCFM programming, the Ligue d'improvisation du Manitoba (provincial French improv league) launched its 18th season in November from the brand-new risers of the Salle Antoine-Gaborieau. More than 1,100 spectators came out to cheer on their favourite teams every Friday evening, and an impressive 80 volunteers lent a hand to organize the matches.

A highlight of 2007-2008 was the launch of a mentoring program linking the members of the Ligue d'improvisation du Manitoba with those of the Ligue d'improvisation montréalaise.

In addition, the LIM welcomed two players from the Ligue nationale d'improvisation (LNI) in January 2008: Maryvonne Cyr and Daniel Malenfant. Special activities were scheduled from the 10th to the 13th, including training sessions for coaches and judges, a special double header and an improv workshop. The players-facilitators even travelled to St. Georges!

In the 2008 finale pitting them against the Équipe des Rouges, the Équipe des Verts took home the Coupe Canot.

Quelques arpents de pièges: Edward's 10th year!

After more than twenty years, amiable erudition continues to thrive in the Franco-Manitoban community. In the capable and enthusiastic hands of the evening's emcee for the past ten years, Edward Humphrey, Quelques arpents de pièges attracted a record number of friends, co-workers, teachers and employees of organizations seeking to test their knowledge in a relaxed atmosphere. Some 255 people participated in this social event comprising three parts (topic questions, mystery question and speed round) from six categories (geography, entertainment, history, arts and literature, science and nature, sports and leisure). The Chocolate Affair supplied chocolate brains as a tasty consolation prize.

Fall word-fest with the **Foyer des écrivains**

The Francophone component of THIN AIR (Winnipeg International Writers Festival), the Foyer des écrivains consists of a series of events showcasing writers from Canada and around the world for four days in September.

Avec la publication par Charles Leblanc d'Heures d'ouverture aux éditions du Blé

A double book launch was held on September 26 in the Salle Antoine-Gaborieau with the publication of Charles Leblanc's Les Heures d'ouverture at Les Éditions du Blé and that of L'Exaucée by Christian Violy at Les Éditions des Plaines. The evening ended with a literary and visual improvisation bringing together four writers and four artists.

On September 27, the public had the opportunity to meet Paul Savoie, a native of Manitoba and winner of the 2007 Trillium Book Award. He spoke with writer J.R. Léveillé about the years 1965-1975 and early Franco-Manitoban literature. That same day, audiences were treated to a reading by Roch Carrier, the renowned Quebec author, playwright and story-teller.

September 28 marked the Gala de la parole [word gala], which turned into something of a "boys' night" featuring writers such as Bathélémy Bolivar, Jean Chicoine, Laurent Poliquin and Marc Prescott. It was an opportunity to revisit the history of male literature against a musical backdrop.

Finally, on Saturday, September 29, at the St. Boniface library, France Adam read from Les Étrangers, her new children's book published by Les Éditions des Plaines.

Folklorama: feasting and dancing at the Pavillon canadien-français

The CCFM was home to the Pavillon canadien-français during Winnipeg's traditional Folklorama, an international cultural festival celebrated city-wide in August. The Ensemble folklorique de la Rivière-Rouge presented its latest dance creations to audiences who were happy to sample the delicious cuisine of our French ancestors.

CULTURAL OFFERINGS FOR THE YOUNGER CROWD

Three spell-binding shows

In 2007-2008, the CCFM launched a new performance series for Francophone youth. A total of three shows were presented.

Science or magic?

The season kicked off with scientist-magician Daniel Coutu, who introduced children ages 5 to 12 to the fascinating world of atmospheric pressure, colours, water and gravity with a demonstration that is as magical as it is scientific. Over 1,550 children attended the five Science ou magie performances.

I've lost my voice!

In January, Jeunesses musicales Canada presented Annabelle Canto, the story of a young singer who, on the morning of an important recital, loses both her voice and her memory. Using spontaneity, innocence and humour, Annabelle Canto and her pianist Henri set out on a quest to find this lost magical voice, to the wonderment of young audiences. Although the January 29 performance had to be cancelled due to inclement weather, most of the schools that had signed up were able to make it to another performance.

D'un ocean à l'autre with Arthur l'aventurier

On March 16, Arthur the adventurer told a curious crowd of youngsters about his exciting adventure from the Pacific to the Atlantic coasts. This memorable journey included incredible exploits on the snowy peaks of the Rocky Mountains and in the Valley of the Dinosaurs with Willy the Cowboy from the Prairies. Through pictures and song, he introduced his friends to Polo the polar bear, the salmon King and the velvety little seal pups...

ZPN rap at the Festival des Mots

The CCFM sponsored the ZPN concert at the fifth Festival des Mots on May 26 in Ste. Agathe. Originally from Congo and a champion of Francophone rap music, ZPN has worked with stars like Eva Avila and has been nominated several times at the Trille Or and the Gala de l'ADISQ. ZPN added a hip-hop flavour to this outdoor celebration of musical and literary creativity of students from the Division scolaire franco-manitobaine.

Santa's Village: The magic continues

What language does Santa speak? Why, French of course! For the 29th consecutive year, the CCFM was transformed into Santa's Village from December 1 to 20, allowing some 2,500 children to share their secret wish lists with the jolly old man in French. In a warm and enchanting setting, children, parents and teachers took part in a comprehensive program of learning through play, song and dance. The puppets literally stole the children's hearts! Once again this year, a dozen students from Collège Louis-Riel helped make this unique Winnipeg event a success. The hours they put in at the Village were counted as class time for their cultural facilitation course. All participants were surveyed in order to continue to improve the event in the years ahead.

Creating is fun at the École des jeunes artistes

Once again in 2007-2008, the CCFM held art classes for children aged 6 to 13. The École des jeunes artistes offered two eight-hour learning sessions in July and August, during which Colette Balcaen, a well-known Francophone teacher and artist, shared her artistic knowledge with the children. In addition to introducing her young charges to art techniques and home-grown culture, she is able to identify and prepare the community's next generation of artists. The children discover the joy of working on visual creations using gouache, charcoal, watercolour and ink. This year's theme was "houses".

VISUAL ARTS IN TRANSITION

Temporary gallery closing

The CCFM art gallery, a veritable showcase of local Francophone artists, had to remain closed all year due to major reconstruction work. Founded in 1975, our gallery is one of the oldest Francophone galleries in Canada. The diversity of its exhibitions develops public exposure to, and appreciation of, visual art from our community. It definitely plays a key role in the development of Manitoba's Francophone artists.

Dion work added to the permanent collection

On June 22, the CCFM received a grant of $4,000 from The Royal Canadian Academy of Arts for the purchase of an artwork to add to its permanent collection.

The painting The Last Days of Summer by Franco-Manitoban artist Brigitte Dion was selected.
The CCFM now has more than 230 works in its permanent collection. Several of these hang on the walls of the CCFM building, while the rest of the collection is safely tucked away in the Heritage Centre vault. Varied, rich and abundant, the collection is made up of works that reflect the boundless creativity of Franco-Manitobans past and present.

ONGOING COMMUNITY PRESENCE

To promote the importance of the arts and culture in the overall development of our community and to strengthen the CCFM's role on the local cultural scene, members of our staff and board sit on carefully selected committees and participate in community activities that are in line with our objectives. The CCFM also participates in certain annual meetings of key Francophone organizations in order to identify possible partnerships and to be on the lookout for community projects involving cultural development.

The sporting side of culture

Community presence also means participating fully in community life during leisure or even sports activities! The 36th Bonspiel de la francophonie, held on Saturday, March 29 at the Heather Curling Club in St. Boniface, provided another opportunity for the CCFM team of President Guy Lévesque, his sister Mimi Pattyn, Audrey Tremblay and Eric Plamondon to demonstrate their athletic prowess in a fun atmosphere.

Speed, knowledge and fun

What could be more motivating and compelling than taking part in our own activities? The first Friday of every month, instead of heading home, CCFM employees and board members happily mounted the stairs to the Salle Antoine-Gaborieau for a game of Quelques arpents de pièges! The cup once again eluded the spirited and brilliant team, but they left no doubt about how much they enjoyed going head-to-head with the brainier members of the community.

THE CCFM, A NATIONAL CULTURAL LEADER

Without ever losing sight of the interests of the local community, the CCFM is also a national leader that promotes the role of Francophone culture in the all-round development of Canadian society and endeavours to find collaborative projects across Canada and between the regions.

Important visit from Fredericton

In December 2007, within the framework of the Canada-New Brunswick agreement [sic], the CCFM hosted a visit from Stéphane Leclair, director of the Centre communautaire Sainte-Anne de Fredericton, who was hoping to learn about Manitoba's best practices in cultural development. During his visit, he was able to discuss key administrative issues with senior staff, look at the CCFM programming, attend a Cercle Molière performance, visit a number of tourist sites and meet with the directors of cultural organizations.

This followed up on the CCFM's exploratory mission to New Brunswick ending in March 2007, and which included visits to the Centre Sainte-Anne, the Centre culturel Aberdeen in Moncton, the Théâtre l'Escaouette and the Université de Moncton campus.

Two national seats

Hélène Molin-Gautron, Programming Coordinator, continues to sit on the boards of two national organizations. Appointed to the board of Coup de cœur francophone in January 2007, she was delighted to see the series receive the ADISQ's Event of the Year award. As board chair of the new Réseau des grands espaces, she also participated in the very first Contact Ouest in Pacific Canada in March, where she was able to get plenty of fresh programming ideas.

Productive national meetings

- The CCFM contributed to the development of the strategic plan of the Association des groupes d'arts visuels Francophones (AGAVF)

- CCFM's Executive Director participated in the États généraux de la culture cultural summit in Caraquet, New Brunswick and the Annual Meeting of the Fédération culturelle canadienne-française in Ottawa, held concurrently with the Sommet des communautés Francophones et acadiennes du Canada.
- The Contact Ouest event in Maillardville, British Columbia, and Contact ontarois gave the CCFM the opportunity to see the next generation of Francophone artistic talent in action and to select performers for its future programming

Home to Cultural Groups

Since its inception, the CCFM has been home to a number of active Francophone arts and culture groups through an ongoing cooperation. Of note in 2007-2008 were a major campaign to raise funds for the new Cercle Molière theatre facility and the merger of the Ensemble folklorique de la Rivière-Rouge with the CCFM.

Le Cercle Molière

The Cercle Molière is the oldest professional theatre company in North America. It presented four productions in 2007-2008: Des Lions et leurs ponts (Glenn Joyal), Les Amours mûres (Norm Foster), Une dangereuse obsession (Nigel J. Crisp) and Douze hommes en colère (Reginal Rose). In addition, 23 schools (700 students) participated in the Festival théâtre-jeunesse and Le Théâtre du Grand Cercle (youth wing of the Cercle Molière) brought productions for young people to stages in the Salle Pauline-Boutal, some fifty DSFM schools and around
Manitoba. The TGC is also in charge of La petite école de théâtre du Cercle Molière, which has attracted around 50 students aged 3 to 17 every year since 2002.
204) 233-8053 •
www.cerclemoliere.com

A new theatre facility for Le Cercle Molière

The funding campaign for Le Cercle Molière's new theatre facility that got off the ground officially in 2006 has surpassed all expectations, raising the first $1 million by the fall of 2007. The $2 million target should be reached by November 2008.

The campaign committee, chaired by Senator Maria Chaput, is composed of a dozen volunteers who receive donations from foundations, businesses and members of the community. Their strategies focus on distributing pamphlets and kits to potential donors and approaching partner groups. Corbett Cibinel Architects is the architectural firm chosen for the project.

L'Ensemble folklorique joins the CCFM

Created in 1947, the presentations of l'Ensemble folklorique de la Rivière-Rouge (EFRR) feature traditional French-Canada music, song and dance. The violin, spoons and bones evoke the music and rhythms of days gone by. The group also promotes the creation of original choreography and musical arrangements to keep French-Canadian folklore alive. Its activities include tours, school programming and the folklore school.

Integrating the EFRR into the Centre culturel

The 2007-2008 year marked a turning point in the history of l'Ensemble folklorique, which has been around for over sixty years. A number of meetings to discuss and negotiate the issue produced a transition plan for the merger of the EFRR with the CCFM in the summer of 2008.
(204) 233-8972

The pleasure of singing in French

Founded in 1971, the Alliance chorale Manitoba is a not-for-profit provincial federation that promotes choral singing in French. In 2007-2008, courses in sight-singing and sheet music were available through the Alliance, which also organized singing days in the regions. The Chorale des Intrépides continued to spread the joy of singing, a vital part of French-Canadian culture.
(204) 233-7423

Le 100 Nons celebrates its 40th

An organization that encourages young Franco-Manitobans to perform in public and in so doing prepares Manitoba's new generation of musical performers, Le 100 Nons held its 16th traditional Gala manitobain de la chanson on April 28, 2007. Six artists, including two groups, performed in the Salle Pauline-Boutal: André Lacroix, Jocelyne Baribeau, the Justin Lacroix Band, Julien Desaulniers, Ya Ketchose and Laura Graceffo.

The Justin Lacroix Band and André Lacroix took top honours and represented Manitoba at the Chant'Ouest interprovincial competition held in Vancouver on June 15, where the Justin Lacroix Band was awarded first place.
(204) 231-7036
- www.100nons.com

Sixth Chaud de l'hiver show for Envol CKXL 91.1 FM

Envol FM is much more than a radio station; it is the voice of the Francophone community of Manitoba. Since 1991, Envol has brought together people from all walks of life to provide entertaining, educational and original programming to listeners. In 2007-2008, Envol warmed audiences' hearts – and legs! - with its 6th Chaud de l'hiver show. To mark the 40th anniversary of Le 100 Nons, Les Louis Boys were joined on stage by Les Six Croches, Coulée and Scénario Swing. Daniel Roy and Nadia Gaudet were the hosts for the evening.
(204) 233-4243
- info@envol91.mb.ca

Effective management at the Société historique

Founded in 1902, La Société historique de Saint-Boniface preserves and promotes western Canada's Francophone and Métis heritage, particularly in Manitoba. Since 1998, it has managed the Heritage Centre, which adjoins the CCFM and was constructed specifically for the preservation of archives. In 2007-2008, the SHSC completed the Centre's outdoor signage, developed an archives access policy and embarked on a complete overhaul of its website.
(204) 233-4888
- www.shsb.mb.ca

New at Les Éditions du Blé

Founded in St. Boniface in 1974, Les Éditions du Blé publishes Manitoban writers and texts dealing with western Canada in French. New publications in 2007-2008 included: Laurent Desjardins, un sportif en politique (Bernard Bocquel), Lettres des tranchées (Lucien Kern and Claude de Moissac) and Heures d'ouverture (Charles Leblanc).
(204) 237-8200
- www.livres-disques.ca/editions_ble/home/index.cfm

Focus on dialogue at *l'Amicale de la francophonie*

Created in 1998, l'Amicale de la francophonie multiculturelle du Manitoba inc. is a non-profit association of Francophones from other parts of Canada and the world who have come to live in Manitoba. As the voice of Francophone immigrants with government institutions and community-based organizations, l'Amicale promotes constructive and ongoing dialogue between all of the communities in order to build an open and inclusive Francophonie that respects a variety of cultural backgrounds.
(204) 989-0399

Practical Services

The CCFM is a multipurpose building that provides a number of services to the community, including rental facilities, technical services and ticket sales.

Community facilities

Eight rooms, with capacities ranging from 12 to 550 persons, are available for rent to organizations and businesses from the Francophone community for special events such as banquets, performances, conferences, concerts, ministerial visits, press conferences and receptions. The CCFM hosts the activities of resident groups, as well as those of external organizations, such as Festival du Voyageur and the Fédération des aînés franco-manitobains (FAFM).

Technical services

Technical support is offered to organizations that rent space at the CCFM. A number of regular clients such as the Fédération des aînés franco-manitobains, the Winnipeg Comedy Festival, Festival du Voyageur, several private music and dance schools, and Collège Louis-Riel and other schools in the Division scolaire franco-manitobaine also take advantage of these services.

Locations de salles

Rental Facilities	Number of Times Rented	Type of Activity	Capacity
Salle Jean-Paul-Aubry	182	Socials, weddings, dinner meetings, political functions, rehearsals, fundraising events, cultural activities, meetings, book fairs, children's activities	554
Salle Pauline-Boutal	195	Plays, rehearsals, concerts, annual meetings and weddings	285
Salle Antoine-Gaborieau	158	Music and dance rehearsals, seminars, meetings, dinner meetings, banquets, workshops (visual arts, dance, etc.), dressing and warm-up activities	120
Le Studio	175	Meetings and rehearsals	50
Conference room	163	Meetings, rehearsals and dressing	12
Salle des artistes	41	Meetings, rehearsals, dressing and receiving	12
Classroom 142	104	Meetings and rehearsals	30
La Terrasse	2	Meetings, rehearsals, birthdays and wedding anniversaries, dinner meetings, receptions, seminars	200
Other space		Public and private meetings of all kinds	
**Salon Empire* (SHSB)	41		
**La Galerie*	16		

The CCFM Team

Un soutien technique est offert aux organismes qui louent les salles du CCFM. Le CCFM-compte plusieurs clients réguliers tels que la Fédération des aînés franco-manitobains, le Festival de l'humour de Winnipeg, le Festival du Voyageur et des écoles de danse et de musique privées. Le Collège Louis Riel ainsi que d'autres écoles de la Division scolaire franco-manitobaine profitent aussi de ses services.

Board of Directors

Guy Lévesque
President

Gaëtanne Morais
Vice-President

Julien Bédard
Director

Martine Bordeleau
Director

Danielle Burke
Director

Kelley Fry
Director

Suzie Lemoine
Director

Chantal St-Pierre
Director

A warm thank you to the board members whose term ended during the year:

Marina Caillier, Director
Abdoulaye Ndiaye, Director
Jean-Paul Lebel, Director

Staff as of March 31, 2008

Administration

Agnès Champagne
Executive Director

Marie Hupé
Executive Assistant

Julie Dubois
Reception

Programming

Hélène Molin-Gautron
Coordinator

Stéphanie Willer
Programming Assistant, Marketing and Communications

Finance and Operations

Audrey Tremblay
Director

Hall Rental

Geneviève Clément-Dykstra
Coordinator

Roger Desrochers
Customer Service

Technical Services

Andrew Toffen
Coordinator

Maintenance

Richard Jubinville
Director

Jean-Louis Normand
Custodian

Jérémy Sinope
Custodian

Richard Beaudette
Custodian

André Labossière

Bar Staff

Millanne Allard
Chantal Lavergne
Benjee Desrochers
Robert Timmerman
Chantal Champagne
Aline Pelletier
James McRae
Roger Turenne
Éric Lavergne
Lise Roch
Chantal Hébert
Jonathan Anderson

Our Invaluable Team of Volunteers

Aline Pelletier
Amber Wojtowicz
Audrey Tremblay
Avelin Gautron
Benoît Pellerin
Carine Cornudet
Cherilyne Robitaille
Christine Guyot
Christine Mazerolle
Claudia Tremblay
Claudine Gauvin
Daniel Lussier
Danielle Robidoux
David Harvey
Dominic Audette
Dominique Philibert
Edouard Humphrey
Émilie Bellefleur
Émilie Coudière
Ernest Hupé
Estelle Soulodre
France Bouchard
France Garand
Gabriel Gosselin
Gabriel Tougas
Geneviève Freynet
Geneviève Messier
George Grenier
Gilbert Savard
Guy Lévesque
Huguette Grenier
Ida Lévesque
Jacinthe Grenier
Jean Fontaine
Julie Gaurin
Kelley Fry
Kevin Prada
Lisa Smith
Marianne Moquin
Marie Hupé
Marie-Anne Beaudette-Dallaire
Marie-Joëlle Tourna
Marie-Josée Clément
Martin Bruyère
Martine Bordeleau
Mathieu Labossière
Miguel Gauthier
Natalie Labossière
Nicolas Franco
Nicole Beaudry
Renel Choiselat
Richard Bazin
Robert Malo
Roger Durand
Sébastien Ouellette
Sophie Clément
Stéphane Bénard
Stéphanie Roy
Stephanie Willer
Suzie Lemoine
Sylvie Gauthier
Thierry Marchildon
Valérie Rémillard
Véronique Côté
Vivianne Roy-Mazerolle
Yan Dallaire

Key Cultural Partners

The *Centre culturel franco-manitobain* wishes to thank the funding agencies, individuals and businesses that were key contributors to the development of Manitoba's French-language arts and culture scene in 2007-2008.

Government of Canada

Heritage Canada
Industry Canada
Public Works and Government Services Canada

Province of Manitoba

Culture, Heritage, Tourism and Sport
Education, Training and Youth

Other

Francofonds
Secrétariat aux affaires intergouvernementales canadiennes
Canada Council for the Arts
Manitoba Arts Council

Thanks to all of our other sponsors and partners

Société Radio-Canada (Manitoba)
Coup de cœur francophone
Alliance française du Manitoba
Division scolaire franco-manitobaine
Association culturelle franco-manitobaine (ACFM)
Comité culturel de Notre-Dame-de-Lourdes
Comité culturel de Somerset
Comité culturel de Saint-Georges
Comité culturel de Lorette
Le Garage Café
Le 100 Nons
Le Festival du Voyageur

Envol 91,1 FM
Jazz Winnipeg and Michelle Grégoire Productions
Conseil jeunesse provincial
The Honourable Senator Maria Chaput
Winnipeg Foundation
Galaxie
SOCAN Foundation
TV5
Francophonie Express
Belgian Veterans' Association, Branch 107 / Belgian Club
Fairmount Hotel
Xerox
Winnipeg Free Press
TD Canada Trust
St. John's Music
J.J.H. McLean & Co. Limited
The Chocolate Affair
Pepsi Bottling Group Company
Sportex / recruiting office (CUSB)
Fort Garry Brewing Company
Société franco-manitobaine and 233-ALLÔ
Economic Development Council for Manitoba Bilingual Municipalities (CDEM)
Caisse Saint-Boniface
Chiens de Soleil du CUSB
Espace Musique 89,9 FM
Swish Maintenance Limited
Service d'animation culturelle (CUSB)
Corbett Cibinel Architects
CBC / Radio-Canada
Cora's
Contempra Signs
Dutch Meat Market
Gunn's Bakery
La Vieille Gare
Premier Printing
Step'n Out
World of Water

Official media sponsor of programming

La Liberté

The technical department would also like to acknowledge the support of:

Vince Gatti and the Stage Lite Manitoba staff
Pete Petrovich, Cam Rajotte, Robert Dolinski and the Soundart International staff
Alan T. Wolanin and the Canadian Backline staff
Craig, Jeff and the Global Electric staff
Richard Dupas and *Le Cercle Molière*

OFFICE OF THE
AUDITOR GENERAL
MANITOBA

AUDITORS' REPORT

To the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba
To the Board of Directors of Le Centre culturel franco-manitobain

We have audited the statement of financial position of Le Centre culturel franco-manitobain as at March 31, 2008, and the statements of operations and changes in fund balances and cash flows for the year then ended. These financial statements are the responsibility of the corporation's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Those standards require that we plan and perform an audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation.

In our opinion, these financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the corporation as at March 31, 2008, and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles.

Office of the Auditor General

Office of the Auditor General

Winnipeg, Manitoba
May 30, 2008

500 - 330 Portage Avenue Winnipeg, Manitoba R3C 0C4 office: (204) 945-3790 fax: (204) 945-2169
www.oag.mb.ca

LE CENTRE CULTUREL FRANCO-MANITOBAIN
Statement of Financial Position

March 31	2008	2007
Assets		
Current Assets		
Cash and bank	$ 12,425	$ 17,896
Grants receivable	109,498	92,763
Accounts receivable	71,840	44,559
Accounts receivable - Province of Manitoba	25,891	25,891
Inventory	3,729	3,999
Prepaid expenses	36,224	22,685
	259,607	207,793
Non-Current Assets		
Accounts receivable	-	3,613
Capital assets	34,117	43,298
Deferred charges	4,442	6,280
	38,559	53,191
	$ 298,166	$ 260,984
Liabilities and Fund Balances		
Current Liabilities		
Bank indebtedness	$ 84,820	$ 103,470
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	86,970	53,870
Deferred contributions	18,399	6,059
Rental and damage deposits	29,475	20,500
	219,664	183,899
Deferred contributions related to capital assets	29,552	37,463
	249,216	221,362
Commitments		
Fund Balances		
Unrestricted Funds	89,003	50,709
Operations	(44,618)	(16,922)
Cultural Programs	4,565	5,835
Invested in capital assets	48,950	39,622
	$ 298,166	$ 260,984

Auditors' Report

To the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba

The accompanying statements of financial position and operations and changes in fund balances are derived from the complete financial statements of Centre Culturel Franco-Manitobain as at March 31, 2008 and for the year then ended on which we expressed an opinion without reservation in our report dated May 30, 2008. The fair summarization of the complete financial statements is the responsibility of management. Our responsibility, in accordance with the applicable Assurance Guideline of the Canadian Institute of Chartered Accountants, is to report on the condensed financial statements.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements fairly summarize, in all material respects, the related complete statements of operations in accordance with the criteria described in the Guideline referred to above.

These condensed financial statements do not contain all the disclosures required by Canadian generally accepted accounting principles. Readers are cautioned that these statements may not be appropriate for their purposes. For more information on the corporation's financial position, results of operation, changes in fund balances and cash flows, reference should be made to the related complete financial statements available at the offices of the corporation.

Winnipeg, Manitoba
May 30, 2008

LE CENTRE CULTUREL FRANCO-MANITOBAIN
Statement of Operations and Changes in Fund Balances

For the year ended March 31

	Operations	Cultural Programs	Capital	Fund Raising	2008 Total	2007 Total
Revenue						
Administration fees	$ 349	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 349	$ 241
Admission fees	-	36,734	-	-	36,734	20,712
Bar	34,081	-	-	-	34,081	38,619
Bingos	-	-	-	3,000	3,000	-
Commissions	389	339	-	-	728	8,722
Corporate sponsorship and donations	265	19,292	-	-	19,557	6,657
Grants						
Government of Canada	-	176,615	-	-	176,615	172,734
Government of Manitoba	399,200	20,500	132,897	-	552,597	504,254
Miscellaneous	1,500	25,729	-	-	27,229	41,724
Interest	5,573	-	-	-	5,573	5,182
Miscellaneous	74,231	9,069	-	-	83,300	88,845
Ren	232,808	-	-	-	232,808	254,538
Sale of office supplies and other	10,015	-	-	-	10,015	9,632
Technical services	59,944	-	-	-	59,944	54,842
	818,355	288,278	132,897	3,000	1,242,530	1,206,702
Expenses						
Amortization of capital assets	-	-	9,181	-	9,181	11,570
Catering and bar	44,064	-	-	-	44,064	47,154
Fundraising - Bingos	-	-	-	-	-	10
Operations	735,997	318,974	-	-	1,054,971	1,045,338
Repair	-	-	124,986	-	124,986	62,104
	780,061	318,974	134,167	-	1,233,202	1,166,176
Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenses for the year	38,294	(30,696)	(1,270)	3,000	9,328	40,526
Fund balances, beginning of year	50,709	(16,922)	5,835	-	39,622	(904)
Interfund transfer	-	3,000	-	(3,000)	-	-
Fund balances, end of year	$ 89,003	$ (44,618)	$ 4,565	$ -	$ 48,950	$ 39,622

Approved on behalf of the Board of Directors:

Director

Director